IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as set forth below:

1-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Presented) A method of encapsulating Ethernet frames onto a Very high speed Digital Subscriber Line (VDSL) facility, said method comprising:

receiving Ethernet frames from an Ethernet source;

storing said Ethernet frames for subsequent forwarding;

encapsulating said previously stored Ethernet frames within VDSL frames, wherein each Ethernet frame is encapsulated entirely within a VDSL frame; and

transmitting said VDSL frames over said VDSL facility.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 8, wherein said Ethernet source comprises a 10BaseT Ethernet source.

10. (Previously Presented) A method of extracting Ethernet frames from a Very high speed Digital Subscriber Line (VDSL) facility, said method comprising:

receiving VDSL frames from said VDSL facility, wherein a given Ethernet frame is encapsulated entirely within a VDSL frame;

extracting Ethernet frames from the VDSL frames received;

storing said Ethernet frames for subsequent forwarding; and

forwarding said Ethernet frames to an Ethernet source.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 10, wherein said Ethernet source comprises a 10BaseT Ethernet source.

12-29. (Cancelled)

30. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 8 wherein the Ethernet source comprises a 100BaseT Ethernet source.

31. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 8 wherein the encapsulating comprises inserting a length field prior to the Ethernet frame.

32. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 31 wherein the encapsulating further comprises inserting a preamble prior to the length field.

33. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 32 wherein the preamble comprises a Barker code.

34. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 10 wherein the Ethernet source comprises a 100BaseT Ethernet source.

35. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 10 wherein the encapsulating comprises inserting a length field prior to the Ethernet frame.

36. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 35 wherein the encapsulating further comprises inserting a preamble prior to the length field.

37. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 36 wherein the preamble comprises a Barker code.

38. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:

receiving an Ethernet frame from an Ethernet source;

encapsulating the Ethernet frame within a very high speed digital subscriber line (VDSL) frame; and

transmitting the VDSL frame over a VDSL facility.

39. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 38 further comprising:

receiving a second VDSL frame over the VDSL facility;

extracting ~~an~~ a second Ethernet frame from the second VDSL frame; and

transmitting the second Ethernet ~~from~~ frame to the Ethernet source.

40. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 38 wherein the Ethernet source comprises a 100BaseT Ethernet source.

41. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 38 wherein the Ethernet source comprises a 10BaseT Ethernet source.

42. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 38 wherein the encapsulating comprises inserting a length field prior to the Ethernet frame.

43. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 42 wherein the encapsulating further comprises inserting a preamble prior to the length field.

44. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 43 wherein the preamble comprises a plurality of bytes exhibiting high autocorrelation properties.

45. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 43 wherein the preamble comprises a Barker code.

46. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 43 wherein the VDSL frame excludes an Ethernet preamble that preceded the Ethernet frame on an Ethernet medium.

47. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 46 where the VDSL frame further excludes an Ethernet start of frame symbol that preceded the Ethernet frame on an Ethernet medium.

48. (New) A method comprising encapsulating an Ethernet frame within a very high speed digital subscriber line (VDSL) frame.

49. (New) The method as recited in claim 48 further comprising transmitting the VDSL frame over a VDSL facility.

50. (New) The method as recited in claim 48 further comprising receiving the Ethernet frame from an Ethernet source.

51. (New) The method as recited in claim 48 further comprising extracting another Ethernet frame from another VDSL frame.

52. (New) The method as recited in claim 48 further comprising encapsulating a plurality of Ethernet frames in respective VDSL frames, wherein the plurality of Ethernet frames are variable length.

53. (New) A method comprising extracting an Ethernet frame from a very high speed digital subscriber line (VDSL) frame.

55. (New) The method as recited in claim 53 further comprising transmitting the Ethernet frame on an Ethernet facility.

55. (New) The method as recited in claim 53 further comprising receiving the VDSL frame from a VDSL facility.

56. (New) The method as recited in claim 53 further comprising receiving a plurality of Ethernet frames, wherein the plurality of Ethernet frames are variable length.